



Left to right: Board of Transportation Chairman Ned Curran, Secretary Nick Tennyson, Roger Peeden, Luther Thompson and Division Engineer Tim Little. Not pictured: Clifton Merritt

Wayne County Employees Recognized by State Board of Transportation

Three employees from Wayne County Maintenance were recognized with the N.C. Department of Transportation's Extra Mile Award for rescuing trapped motorists during Hurricane Matthew. Transportation Secretary Nick Tennyson presented the award to Clifton Merritt, Roger Peeden and Luther Thompson at the Board of Transportation's monthly meeting on Dec. 1, in Raleigh.

The employees were involved in two separate rescues. First, on the afternoon of the storm, Merritt and Peeden rescued a woman whose car was stalled out in floodwaters.

Later that night, Merritt and Thompson rescued another woman whose car was stranded on the side of the road in knee-high water.

"I'm extremely proud of our team's response to the storm, and am especially proud of these guys for their life-saving actions," Division Engineer Tim Little said. "These situations also underscore the importance of not driving through standing water. If Clifton, Roger and Luther had not been where they were, these stories could have turned out very different."

The Extra Mile Award recognizes department employees for significant contributions over and above normal job duties.

Stay Connected



NC Transportation Now

This week:

NCDOT Employees Recognized by State Board of Transportation

[Click here](#) for more information for NC Transportation Now.

Save Money on Holiday Travel

Check out this [press release](#) for information on how to save money with the NC Quick Pass Transponder Sale.

We Need Your Input!

The N.C. Department of Transportation has opened the department's second annual customer survey.

All citizen feedback will be collected online at go.ncsu.edu/customerservice2016. The survey takes 15 minutes to complete and the survey link is mobile friendly.

The N.C. General Assembly requires the survey to gauge how



DOT is preparing for winter weather. You should too.

Transportation Prepares for Winter Weather

Winter is approaching and that means N.C. Department of Transportation is preparing for rough road conditions.

When snow and ice are in the forecast, DOT has more than 1700 dump trucks fitted with sand and salt spreaders, 495 front end loaders and backhoes, and 332 motor graders to use throughout the state as needed. Most importantly, more than 3200 specially trained employees are available to assist with the hazards associated with winter weather.

Motorists are urged to stay off the roads during winter storms. For more information on how to stay safe on winter roads, check the [NCDOT Safe Driving Tips](#).



DOT workers have been assessing and repairing damage since Matthew swept through the state on Oct. 8.

the transportation department is providing great customer service. Participation can help NCDOT identify ways to make North Carolina transportation services safer, more efficient and customer focused.

The online survey will close December 31.

The results will be available to the public on NCDOT.gov in 2017.

Thanksgiving Click It or Ticket

State and local law enforcement officers issued 1,961 seat belt and 340 child passenger violations during the Governor's Highway Safety Program's (GHSP) Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign on Nov. 20-26.

Over the holiday enforcement period, state and local law enforcement agencies held 2,786 checkpoints and stepped-up patrols, issuing 3,209 traffic and criminal violations. The top five counties for occupant restraint violations were:

- * Wake County: 210
- * Guilford County: 100
- * Robeson County: 100
- * Forsyth County: 99
- * Lenoir County: 96
- * Cabarrus County: 90

In its 23rd year, the *Click It or Ticket* education and enforcement campaign reminds motorists that wearing a seat belt is the single most effective action that a person can take to save their life. Between 2010 and 2014, an average of 545 lives were saved per year due to the use of seat belts in passenger vehicles.

The overall seat belt usage rate for North Carolina increased from 89.9 percent in 2015 to 91.7 percent in 2016.

For county by [county totals](#) and

Hurricane Continues to Impact Division Four Recovery to Continue into 2017

Hurricane Matthew continues to impact eastern North Carolina, including the counties of Division Four.

More than 600 roads in the state were damaged by the Oct. 8 hurricane. Transportation workers have been tirelessly assessing and repairing the damage.

At press time, approximately 153 roads remain affected from hurricane damage throughout eastern North Carolina.

Repairs to many roads will continue into 2017. Many of the roads are under contract, which requires a bidding process. Pipes and other materials also need to be ordered. Some pipe suppliers are reporting an overwhelming number of orders. Cold weather may also inhibit the laying of concrete, causing employees to use gravel as a temporary fix.

For real time information on roads, check the Traveler Services section on www.ncdot.gov or follow NCDOT on Twitter.

For more Hurricane Matthew photos, [check the NCDOT Flickr page](#).

For more transportation news, [check the NCDOT Newsroom](#).

Your friends can sign up for NCDOT Division newsletters at the [NCDOT newsletter page](#).

Wildfires Scorch Miles of Mountains Transportation Crews Assist when Asked

ASHEVILLE - Department of Transportation crews posted a handful of digital message boards in Western North Carolina that roads were closed due to wildfire during November.

More than 20 separate wildfire complexes scorched in excess of 70,000 acres and forced neighborhood evacuations from Swain County to McDowell County. Pockets of North Carolina were left with hazardous air quality.

Despite the devastation, only four major highways needed to be closed. Transportation officials worked with various agencies to organize the closures and set up marked detours.

A seven-mile stretch of U.S. 64/74A and N.C. 9 in Rutherford County - the main route through Chimney Rock Village and Lake Lure - closed on Nov. 11 due to the Party Rock Fire. The same fire closed a shorter stretch of N.C. 9 on Nov. 16. Both opened on the evening of Nov. 20 and allowed business to open the next day for residents and visitors.

A fire in Swain County closed 14 miles of U.S. 74/N.C. 19 through the Nantahala Gorge for about 48 hours starting on Nov. 12. In McDowell County, the Clear Creek Fire forced the closure of N.C. 80 from Old Toms Creek to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

In all, less than 35 miles of roads were closed to help crews battle the wildfires, which consumed more than 110 square miles of land in Western North Carolina. Governor McCrory declared a state of emergency and a burn ban on Nov. 11 and transportation officials reminded motorists of the ban through digital messaging on message mounts in the mountains.

more information regarding the [Click It or Ticket](#) program, contact Jonathan Bandy at 919-618-1974, or visit the [GHSP website](#).

Christmas Driving Tips

As Christmas approaches, the Department of Transportation has some tips for navigating the highways safely during your travels.

- Leave early to get a head start. Travel at non-peak hours if possible.
- Stay alert.
- Be patient and obey the speed limit.
- Use alternative routes, when possible, to avoid traffic congestion.
- Stay informed. Real time travel information is available at www.ncdot.gov or you can follow NCDOT on Twitter.
- Don't drive drowsy. Travel at times you are normally awake, and take frequent breaks.
- Avoid distracted driving.

For more information about road closings and other holiday travel tips, check the [NCDOT Newsroom](#).

BREAKING NEWS

As the Division 4 newsletter was going to press, it was announced that a portion of U.S. 70 in Wayne County will be named after Grey Bailey. The January 2017 Division 4 newsletter will contain more information from the ceremony.

"We were able to help and do our part with the closures and the detours," Division 13 Maintenance Engineer Mark Gibbs said. "We were happy to assist our friends at the N.C. Forest Service, the U.S. Forest Service and all of the local agencies."

Press Releases for Division Four/State

[Traffic Related Deaths Remembered at Annual Tree of Life Lighting](#)

[NCDMV Installs New License and Theft Inspectors](#)

[Getting a Drone for Christmas? Learn about Safety!](#)

[GlobalTrans Park Hosts 900 Students for Manufacturing Day](#)

[Bridge Work to Require Nighttime Closures on I-95 near Wilson](#)

[Contract Awarded for Access Road to Novo Nordisk in Johnston County](#)

[Division of Aviation Social Media Takes Off](#)

[Ferry Dredge Manteo Successfully Completes Its First Assignment](#)

[2017 Ferry Schedule Released](#)

For more transportation news, click on the [NCDOT Newsroom](#)

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